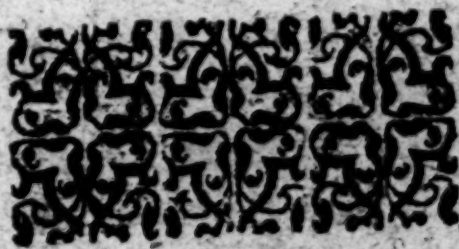


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A
TRUE RELATION
OF A BRAVE ENGLISH
STRATAGEM, PRACTISED
lately vpon a Sea-Towne in *Galizia*, (one of
the Kingdomes in *Spaine*) and most vali-
antly and successefully performed by one *English*
Ship alone of 30. Tonne, with no
more than 35. Men
in her.

AS ALSO,
With two other remarkeable
Accidents betweene the *English* and
Spaniards, to the glory of our
Nation.



Printed for *Mercurius Britannicus*.

1626.

A

OF A BRAVE ENGLISH

IN A TALE OF THE

THE KINGDOMS IN SPAIN AND MOST VILL

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Printed for Messrs. Bland

1826



*A true Relation of a braue English
stratagem practiced lately vpon a Sea-towne in
Galizia, (one of the Kingdomes in Spaine) and most
valiantly and succesfully performed by one English
Ship alone, of 30. Tonne, with no more
than 35. men in her.*

*With two other Remarkable Accidents betweene
English and Spaniards, to the glorie of
our Nation.*



On shall here (louing Countrymen)
receiue a plaine, full, and perfect
Relation, of a stratagem brauely at-
tempted, resolutely seconded with
bold *English* spirits, and by them
as fortunately Executed vpon our
Enemies, the *Spaniards*: Who,
albeit vpon what Kingdome soeuer they once set but
footing, they write *Plus ultra*, deuouring it vp in
conceipt, and feeding their greedy ambition that it is
All their owne; yet this great golden Fagot of Do-
minion may haue many sticks plucked out of it, if
cunning fingers goe about to vndoe the Band: as by
this Galizian Enterprize may appeare.

A pregnant testimony hereby being giuen, that if

the great Warriours of the Sea would ioyne together, and Thunder all alongst the *Spanish* Coasts, the *Castilian* Kingdomes might easily be shaken, when so poore a handfull of our *English* being spread before one of their Sea townes, was the fore-runner of so terrible a storme to all the Inhabitants.

Such a braue mustering of all the Gods of the Ocean in one conjoynd Armie, would quickly make the great *Donnes* to alter their proud and insolent Poetic, of *Non sufficit orbis* (the world is too little to fill their belly, when the *East-Indies* lies vpon one of their Trenchers, and the *West* vpon another; yea, and compell them to dwell quietly at home, in their owne hot barren Country of *Spaine*, contented with a dinner of a few Oliues, a handfull of Reifins, and such poore trash; not intruding into other Kings Territories, (especially these fruitfull ones of ours,) to cate vp our fat Beefes, Veales, Muttons, and Capons, (Victuals too good for such insatiable feeders,) when whole Countries (might they swallow downe their fill) are nothing to be deuoured at one meale.

Come forth therefore you Renowned *English*, and by the example of a few Country-men of yours, plough vp the furrowes of your Enemies Seas, and come home laden (as they haue done) with spoyles, honours, victorie, and rich purchased Prizes.

Feare not to fight, albeit fise Kings bring their men of Warre into the field, for you haue a *Iosua* to stand vp in your defence, and to bid them battell.

And when you goe to draw your Swords, or to discharge your Cannons against the Iron ribbes of the

the Armadoes of this Potent and bloody Enemy,
Pray vnto the Lord toward the way of the Citie
which he hath chosen, and toward the house which in
that place is built vp for his Name, and Hee in hea-
uen will heare your prayers and supplications, and
judge your cause, and deliuer these wilde Boares, and
Bulls of Tariffa into your Toyles.

To arme you for Action, for your Countrie, for
your Fames, for Wealth, and the credit of your Na-
tion, whensoever it pleaseth God, that you put to Sea,
may you be prosperous, and speed no worse than these
haue done, whose story I am now going to set downe.

One Captaine *Quaile* borne in *Portsmouth*, desiring
to attempt something for the honour of *England*, and
benefit of himselfe and followers, by the Licence and
authority of those in *England* who might giue him
leauē, got a Barke of *Plimouth*, which by him and his
friends was sufficiently furnished with Men, Victuals,
and Munitiō: the Barke being but 30. tunne, and the
men in her, to the number of 34. or 35.

This Captaine and the resolute *Gyng* with him
went merrily to Sea, and sailed too and fro, without
fastening vpon any purchase, answerable to their ex-
pectation, or defraying such a Charge, as they and
their Ship had beene at. Their fortunes in *England*
were not great, and if they should retorne home with-
out some exploits, their estates would be lesse. Here-
upon the Captaine discovering his minde to his
Lieutenant whose name was *Frost*, they two (after
consultation betweene themselves) perswaded the rest
of their company to trye their vttermost aduentures,

rather than like Cowards to goe backe, who hearing the Captaines resolution, were on fire to follow him, through all dangers, happen whatsoeuer could. And so they clapped hands vpon this desperate bargaine, yet protesting, and seriously vowing not to turne Pyrats, thereby to make booty either of their owne Country-men or friends to the State.

Good hope thus, and a prosperous winde filling their Sayles, they howered along by the Coast of *Galicia*, which lyes vpon the head of *Portugall*, to the Northward. In passing by which, the Shippe being cleere, and the shores quiet, the Captaine commanded them to cast Anchor before a certaine Towne called *Cris*, which had a Plat-forme, or Fort with Ordnance to defend it; and this was done at Noone-day.

Then, he being perfect in the French tongue, wrote a Letter in that Language to the Gouvernour or Captaine of the Fort, importing thus much, That they were poore distressed French-men, driuen thither by some Turkish men of Warre, and flying to them (as to their friends) for succour: pretending their greatest want to be Wood for firing, and fresh Water, to relieue them, of both which necessities, they knew that place abundantly stored, and for which they would giue any reasonable content.

Thus ryding at Anchor in sight of the Towne, and their Cock boate being lost in a storme; they had no other deuice to conuey the Letter to the *Spanish* Commander, than by sending a Sayler vpon an empty Hogthead, with an Oare in his hand to guide him
to

to Land, he being very skilfull both in the *French*, and swimming.

The *Spaniards* seeing a man making to them in that strange manner, thought verily they were men distressed indeed, and thereupon Manning out of a Skiffe to meet and receiue him, they tooke him in.

The Letter spake his businesse to the *Spanish* Captaine, who talking further in the *French* to the Marri-ner, and being thereupon certainly assured of their distresse, determined to sell to them such commodi-ries as they wanted, at as deere a rate as he could: and for that purpose commanded another Skiffe to bee Manned out with certaine *Spaniards*, who suspecting nothing; hastened to goe aboard the Pinnace, with their Captaine in company.

In the meane time Captaine *Quaile* had shut his Port-holes close, and hid his Ordnance: discovering not aboue five men vpon the Hatches, who seemed to carry sickly faces, and weake bodyes, and were all vn-armde. The *Spaniards* are joyfully embraced and welcomed: such poore victuals as they had aboard were with arguments of much loue set before them: *Holland* Cheeses were cut in the middle, and such Wine and Beere offered them, as they were furnished with.

This Entertainment carrying away all suspition with it, Captaine *Quaile* inuited the *Spanish* Captaine and the rest of his company to his Cabbin. In passing to which, the *Spanish* Commander espied a peece of Ordnance; at which starting backe, and not halfe well pleased, demanding why it lay there, *Quaile* ex-
cused

cused it, and said, that was all the protection they car-
 ried about them, to defend them from dangers: and
 so with as much Cunning as hee could, hee drew by
 complement, and disguised faire language, all the
Spaniards into his Cabbin: whither with good words
 he welcommed them, and saluted them with Canes
 of Wine, which whiles they were tossing (albeit the
Spaniard is the most temperate drinker in the world)
 and Captaine *Quaile* with his foote giuing a knocke
 for more; That signe of the foot was a watch-word
 to fetch vp all his Marriners; who crying *St. George*,
 appeared in their full number, euery man armed with
 a chargde Pistoll, and short Sword drawne in his
 hand.

The *Spaniards* astonished at this vnexpected surpri-
 sall, seeing no remedy, yeelded themselues, and so
 were all taken prisoners: an assurance being giuen
 them by the *English* Captaine vpon the oath of a
 Souldier (his honour) and the faith of an *English*-
 man, which to an Enemy he scornes to breake, not a
Spaniard there should be in any danger for his life, so
 they would be quiet and silent, otherwise Death.

Certaine Fishermen were all this while round a-
 bout them at their labour, yet perceiued nothing.

With all speed theretore that possibly could bee
 vsed, Captaine *Quaile* and his Lieutenant making
 their Prisoners sure, Manned out the two *Spanish*
 Skiffes with his *English* Muskatiers, euery one of them
 lying downe in the Skiffes flat on his belly, none (that
 might be mistrusted, being seene) but such onely as
 Rowed the two Skiffes.

Then

Then, with great Circumspection (attended vpon by a resolution to meete Death face to face) they landed themselves, and (active as fire) suddenly with little or no danger at all, surprized the Plat-forme, and with the same dexteritie were Masters of the Fort: for the act being quicke as lightning, so amazed the *Spaniards*, that it tooke from them all apprehension not onely of feare, but preuention, or acknowledgement of that danger which trod vpon their heeles. So that Captaine *Quaile*, what with his owne successe and the others astonishment, in a short time, and without resistance, seized vpon the Ordnance of the Plat-forme, which turning and discharging vpon the Towne, and his owne Barke likewise giuing fire to her Pieces on the other side, Away ranne the people, to the number of Two hundred persons, besides Women and Children. At the noise of these sudden terrours, the Fishermen likewise, cutting their Nets, hastened as fast as they could to shore, hauing more care to saue themselves than to catch any Fish; and so flying vp into the Countrey, the Towne was left naked, and letten to new Land-lords. Vho meeting no *Spaniards* willing to be their Tenants, and the *English*-men themselves being loath to tarrie amongst such bad neighbours, they rifled both the Fort and the Towne, and had the Pillaging of both, for Eight houres together. In which time, they hurried to their Ship any thing that was of value, and besides the abundance of much riches, they brought away the Ord-

nance of the Fort, the Bell out of the Church, and the Challice : and so (without wrong to their persons) putting their *Spanish* Prisoners into their owne Skiffes, to shore they sent them, with a warlike, triumphing Farwell from their owne Pieces, and are now with much honour arriued in *England*.

If this Example noble Country-men cannot giue you sufficient Incouragement, doe but looke backe into the former Ages, and take a brieve suruay what Honourable attempts, exploits, vndertakings, and stratagems, haue in forraigne Countries beene enterprized and archieued by the *English*, when braue *John* of *Gannet*, Duke of *Lancaster*, &c. beeing but a Subiect, without borrowing or charging of the Kings treasures, out of his owne Purse and Coffers, and assisted by his Friends and such voluntary Gentlemen, as craued dependance vpon his Fortunes, without Presse or compelling any man, beating vp his Drummes, leauied so sufficient an Army, that with it hee Conquered all *Spaine*, remoued the Vsurper, and reinstated the expelled *Don Pedro*, and after by Interchangeable Marriages, made himselfe and successiue Issue, competitors and allies to the Crowne and Dignitie Imperiall.

Of what Honours our Nation haue purchased from the *French*, euen their owne Chronicles, without the flatterie of ours, giue ample and sufficient testimonie : Witnesse the Battailles of *Poytiers* and *Cressie*, fought by the Inuincible Souldier (for the
great

great terrour which hee brought into *France*) called the *Blacke Prince*, who with Inimitable valour, Courage vndaunted, and expedition almost beyond humane apprehension against infinite oddes, and nothing on his owne partie to incourage him, saue want of number and disadvantage of place, yet notwithstanding, not onely desrouted their mightie Armies, killing many and defeating all. But brought the King *Dolphin*, and all the Prince peeres of the land Prisoners, and presented them at the feete of his Father.

The *Scotch* King, taking the aduantage of the King of *Englands* then being in *France*, who lay at *Calice*, made Inrodes and Incurfions into this Land, whom the Queene *Philip* then destitute of all her Nobilitie and Gentry, as being then with the King her Husband in *France*) met with an Army of Priests, Husbandmen, Artificers, and some few Gentlemen, gaue him Battaile, vanquisht his Armie, tooke him Prisoner, and added one thing more to the eternizing of her Husbands and Sonnes famous and renowned valours.

I omit the great Battaile fought by *Henry* the Fift at *Agincourt*, with many others, and least I be taxed of too great a digression returne to the former discourse by me promised, and I make no question by you expected.

In *Lisbone* not long since, a young Marchant (who *The 2. Honour of our* for diuers respects desires to haue his name concealed, being in the company of certaine *Donnes*, and *Nation*.

Falling in discourse about the valour of severall Nations, they so farre exceeded in the hyperbolies of their owne praise, that they blusht not to affirme, that one *Spaniard* was able to beate two *English*-men out of the Field, which they in their braggadesme inforced so farre, that though the rest were silent, this young Gentleman not able to conceale a true English spirit, after some retort of language, there made a protestation, That if it pleased the Gouvernour to giue him leaue, hee himselfe would vnder-take, (making choise of his VWeapon) to fight singly against three of the proudest Champions they would produce against him; to cut off Circum-stance, the Challenge was accepted, the Gouvernour prepared the combitants, with the time and place appointed: a great confluence of people assembled: where one young Merchant, armed onely with his Sword and a Spanish Pike in the lists appeared, who by the three aduersaries was boldly and resolutely charged: but God and his good Cause defended him so well, that the Combate continued not long, till one of them he had layd dead at his foote, and hauing receiued from them some few scratches, with the losse of a small quantitie of blood, but without danger, hee so actiuelly and resolutely behaued himselfe against the suruiuers, that they after diuers wounds from him receiued begin to quaille in their former courage, and fight more faintly and further off, which the Gouvernour perceiuing, commanded the Combat to ceale, and withall to guard him

the English man from the furie of the displeased multitude, who could haue found in their hearts to haue pluckt him in peeces, where calling him vp to him conueyed him safe to his house, and after much commendation of his valour, very nobly secured him to his Ship, wishing him for his owne safety to be seene no more ashoare, whose counsell he followed; and since with much Enuy from them, and great Honour to vs, he is arriued in his owne Countrey.

I desire to be tedious in nothing, but will acquaint you with another Exploit, no lesse remarkable then the former, performed in the beginning of this last Moneth *April*, and thus it was:

A worthy Gentleman one Captaine *Warner*, with *The 3. Honour* two small Pinaces was bound towards some part of the *West Indies*, neither of them being of about 30. Tonne burthen: He being thus at Sea, was chased by a tall man of Warre a *Dunkirker*, who came towards them as if shee meant to ouer-runne them at once and bury their ruines in the bottome of the Ocean, which *Warner* perceiuing, pretended to make away with one of his Pinaces, as if hee purposed to saue a stake and leaue the other to the enemies furie and spoyles. The *Dunkirker* not able to fasten on both at once, tooke the aduantage of the first, intending when hee had seized her to make like prise of the other, hales her, boards her: his Saylers and Souldiers being all greedy of bootie neglect their

owne Ship, onely busying themselves in the rifling
 of the other, where I leaue them all busie at worke;
 which *Warner* perceiuing, and not willing to slacke
 so good an opportunitie, takes the aduantage of the
 winde, suddenly casteth about and seazeth vpon the
Dunkirks Ship, whose men were most of them a-
 board his other Pinace; boards her, takes her, mans
 her, and now being armed with her strength
 Commands both his other Pinace, and all the Ene-
 mies aboard her, by which Stratagem, hee not one-
 ly ransomed his owne, but subdued his Enemies,
 made prize both of Ship and goods, and tooke all
 the men Prisoners. A noble incouragement to all
 the braue Captaynes and Commanders of our Na-
 tion, to striue to Imitate him in his resolution and
 valour.

And thus worthy Country-men you see that not-
 withstanding the proud braues of the publike Ene-
 my their scandals and calumnies, with all the asper-
 sions of disgrace that their malice can deuise, to cast
 vpon our Kingdome and Countrey, maugre their
 Inuasions threatned on Land, or their nauall try-
 umphs boasted at Sea; how the great Creator of all
 things, in whose sight pride, vaine-glory, and ambi-
 tion are abominable, can when hee please by the
 hand of the youngman *Dauid*, stoope the stiffe-neck
 of the strongest *Goliath*. And noble Country-men
 may these few Incouragements put into you the an-
 tient Courage of your ancestours, whose memories
 through all Seas, Nations, and Languages, haue
 beene

beene and euer shall bee Sacred to all posterities.
Now is the time of acting , and to shew your
selues as you haue beene euer, Held and esteemed
braue in attempting, and bold in performing,
and so without question your expeditions
shall bee successfull, as the
fame of your vertues
Immortall.

FINIS.
